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THE BATTALION NEWS

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Monday • March 3, 1998

Spring breakers check out Web sites

► *Corpus Christi and South Padre Island are included among the Texas destinations on travel agency internet sites.*

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Forget the travel agent or a fraternity brother's advice. Anxious spring breakers are revving up the mouse and cruising the Internet for the latest sun and fun forecasts.

"Hello, ladies," reads one cyber-posting at www.springbreak.com.

"Two Illinois fratboys are heading for Corpus Christi and Padre Island," the posting continues. "We will be staying in a condo near Padre and Mustang Island. If you are heading to the same paradise we are, e-mail us..."

Hundreds of such postings are peppering the Internet as South Texas prepares for the influx of spring breakers.

High schools and colleges throughout Texas observe week-long spring breaks between March 3 and March 31.

South Texas shares Web-page space with many other destinations, such as Daytona Beach and Panama City, Fla.; Cancun and Acapulco, Mexico; not to mention South Padre Island.

South Padre is mentioned by several travel agency Web sites offering bargain trips for high school and college students.

However, not every South Texas city is trying to lure vacationing students.

A quick review of sites shows the Corpus Christi area bills itself as having much more of a family atmosphere than a party attitude.

Each year, some local hotels see more reluctant to accept reservations from college students, says Emma Stone of the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce. That approach to spring break tourism is shown on the chamber's home page (www.portaransas.org).

There, the March "What's Happening?" calendar does not even mention spring break, and the overall presentation focuses much more on golf, quiet pier and bird-watching than night life.

"We're getting many more families than college students," Stone said.

School district plans rooftop advertising

DALLAS (AP) — A school district next to Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport wants to be looked down on — literally.

By summer, corporate logos from soft drink and athletic-gear companies and others could be emblazoned on the rooftops of Grapevine-Colleyville school buildings.

District officials hope the billboards will catch the eye of the 58 million passengers who fly annually into and out of the airport and raise money to supplement tax dollars.

"We thought maybe in the neighborhood of \$100,000 a year" would be generated, said school board president Marion Brekken. "That's three beginning-teacher salaries."

School bus exteriors; football, baseball and softball fields; the district's cable television channel; and its voice-mail system are other possible venues for ads in an aggressive new campaign trustees are scheduled to vote today.

Ads will cost between \$1,000 and \$10,000 depending on the amount of space and location.

The district's search for additional revenue led it to allow cellular phone companies to build antenna towers at athletic fields.

Grapevine-Colleyville officials said they need the money to compensate for revenues lost to the state's school finance program. The prop-

erty-wealthy district sent more than \$11 million to poorer schools last year.

The district has no plans to place ads in corridors, classrooms or other instructional spaces, superintendent Jim Thompson said.

Rooftop advertisement is especially appealing because "it clearly doesn't interfere with the educational setting at all," he said.

"It's just such a unique geographic situation where the district is located right here near one of the busiest airports in the world."

Dan DeRose
DD Marketing President

Janice Krueger, who owns Studio K Southwest advertising agency in suburban Richardson, said the rooftop ads would be natural to market not just national brands but Dallas-Fort Worth area events like rodeos and car races.

Second earthquake hits northwest Iran

GOLESTAN, Iran (AP) — The last sound Hussein Sultani heard from his daughter-in-law was her scream when the earth began to shake.

His mud hut trembled as boulders dislodged from the surrounding hills rolled down onto the village, killing a group of women washing clothes at a nearby stream. Among the dead was his grandson and his 20-year-old daughter-in-law, Mariam.

Not a single home was standing in this village Sunday, two days after a magnitude 6.1 earthquake left an estimated 3,000 people dead and 2,000 injured in a mountainous region of northwestern Iran.

A second powerful earthquake, magnitude 5.1, hit the region on Sunday, destroying buildings already damaged in Friday's tremor and causing widespread panic, Tehran Radio reported. There was no word on casualties.

Friday's quake in Iran was the most devastating of several Asian

temblors in recent days, in Armenia, China and Pakistan. Officials gave a lower death toll — 554 — than aid workers and villagers, but government said the casualty figures would surely rise as rescuers arrive at the scene.

Sultani, wearing a skullcap and walking with a stoop, made his way through the rubble with a flashlight searching for his family. Aid workers had given him a tent and cooking oil.

"I lost my daughter-in-law and her 3-year-old baby as well as my cousin," he said.

Blood stained the snow-covered ground, and survivors huddled around small bonfires in the 19-degree cold.

In hard-hit Ardabil province, an official told the Farsi-language Kayhan newspaper 110 villages were affected by the quake. The death toll in just six villages visited by reporters in the province was more than 2,000 people.

Nine teen-agers hospitalized after drug overdose at dance

WOBURN, Mass. (AP) — Parents and friends prayed Sunday at church services for the nine teenage girls and two boys still hospitalized for overdosing on a muscle relaxant at a youth dance.

"They are nice kids, that's the whole thing. It very easily could have been my daughter," said Debra Schindler, outside services at the United Methodist Church in this city nine miles northwest of Boston.

The drug, Baclofen, was taken from a mail-order shipment sent to an unidentified patient, Middlesex District Attorney Tom Reilly said. Police are looking for a second bottle of pills containing the antibiotic Hiprex, which was part of the shipment, he said.

It was not clear what problems the antibiotic could cause or if any of the children took that medication.

Five of the 11 teens still hospitalized remained in critical con-

dition Sunday, at least four of them on respirators. All of the victims should recover fully, hospital officials said.

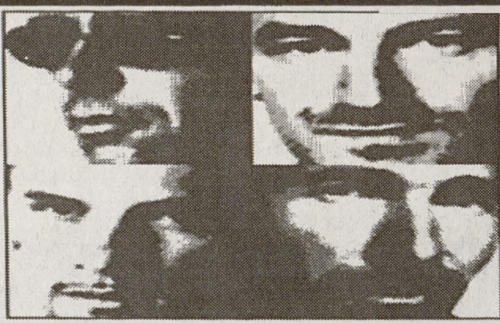
Sunday's services came two days after 14 teens were felled by overdoses of the prescription muscle relaxant Baclofen at a Boys and Girls Club-sponsored dance.

Most of the girls were celebrating their selection as school cheerleaders, and the teens gobbled as many as 35 pills before they started "dropping like flies," as an emergency medical technician put it.

Baclofen, which often is used to treat cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis, was brought to the dance by a girl who also was felled by an overdose. Authorities are not identifying her.

While some Woburn middle school students are aware of drug use at their schools, they say the teen-agers who overdosed were not part of that crowd.

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